



The cliffs of Norway's North Cape drop 1,000 ft. to the sea at the farthest northern point of land in Europe before the North Pole.

# SAILING NORTH ON THE ROUTE OF THE VIKINGS

Exploring North Sea ports from England to Scotland and Norway

*Watercolor impressions painted en route by Michael Killelea*  
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Above **GREENWICH**, on a hill overlooking the Thames River just east of London, sits the venerable Royal Observatory. It is from this building that all time is measured east and west of Greenwich Mean Time.

**DUNFERMLINE** Abbey, in the Scottish town of the same name was built on the remains of a Benedictine Abbey that was founded in 1128 and sacked in 1560. It remains today one of Scotland's major cultural sites.





Kirkwall Harbor on **ORKNEY ISLAND** and its marinas are packed with fishing boats, a testimony to the role the sea has played in the history of this rugged island off of the Scottish coast. Some of its Neolithic sites are 5,000 years old, inhabited long before the Vikings arrived in the 12th Century.

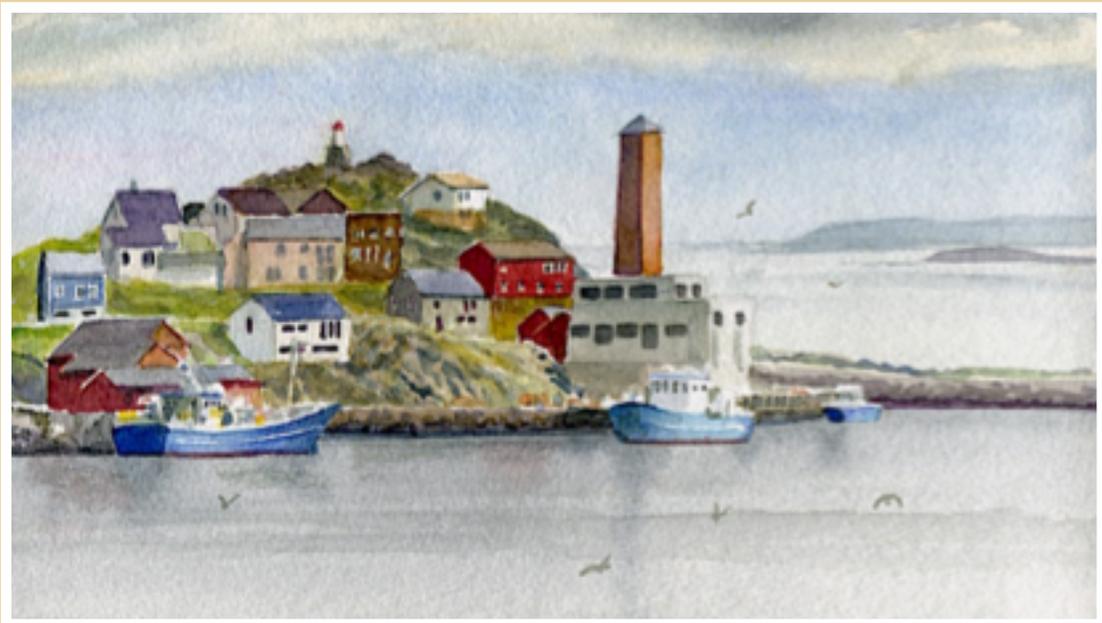
The Lerwick Boating Club serves as a community center for people in **LERWICK**, the main port of the Shetland Islands. This remote and barren island lies 100 miles northeast of the Scottish coast.





The Village of Leknes is tucked into a bay amid Norway's [LOFOTEN](#) island chain. Peaks of the surrounding mountains rise up dramatically, occasionally disappearing into a wind blown rain and mist covered grandeur.

Far above the Arctic Circle, tiny [HONNINGSVAG](#), Norway, is only a bus ride away from the North Cape, at the farthest northern edge of Europe's settled world.





Despite a steady rain and its northern latitude, **TROMSØ**, on Norway's west coast is a lively and modern city, and was the jumping off site for Roald Amundsen's successful Arctic and Antarctic explorations.

The lovely city of **MOLDE**, was settled between snow capped mountains at its shoulder and the fjord at its feet. In summer the harbor is loaded with sailboats and intercostal shipping while its streets are host to crowded street festivals.





The tiny village of **GEIRANGER** sitting at the head of stunning Geiranger Fjord has only 200 buildings but is the third most visited site in Norway. In season there could be five cruise ships jockeying for anchorage there in a single day.

These colorful buildings opposite the docks in **BERGEN'S** inner harbor face an incredibly lively assembly of maritime activity, and are a major draw for international tourism.



Mike Killelea is an artist, author, teacher and traveler. His award winning work has been displayed in local and national exhibitions and museums. More of his work can be seen on his website [www.killeleart.com](http://www.killeleart.com), or updated weekly on his Facebook page [killeleart](https://www.facebook.com/killeleart).